

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-15, 34, and 35 are in the application. Claims 1 and 10 are currently amended; claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, 13-15, 34, and 35 remain unchanged from the original versions thereof; and claims 7, 12, 16-33, 36-40 are canceled. Claims 1 and 10 are the independent claims herein.

No new matter is added to the application as a result of the amendments submitted herewith.

Entry of the presently presented amendments and remarks are respectfully requested, as well as the reconsideration of the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter. In particular, the Office Action stated that claims 7 and 12 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim (i.e., claims 1 and 10, respectively) but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1 and 10 are currently amended to include all aspects of the previous claims 7 and 12 and corresponding base claims 1 and 10.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 10 are in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 2-6, 8, 9, and 34 depend from claim 1 and claims 11, 13-15, and 35 depend from claim 10. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-15, 34, and 35 are also allowable.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103(a)

Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 USC 103(a) claim rejections of record are moot in light of the claim amendments submitted herewith. For example, the 35 USC 103(a) claim rejections of record are either directed towards canceled claims or claims amended to include or that depend on claims that include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejections are requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of pending claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-15, 34, and 35. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-5985.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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